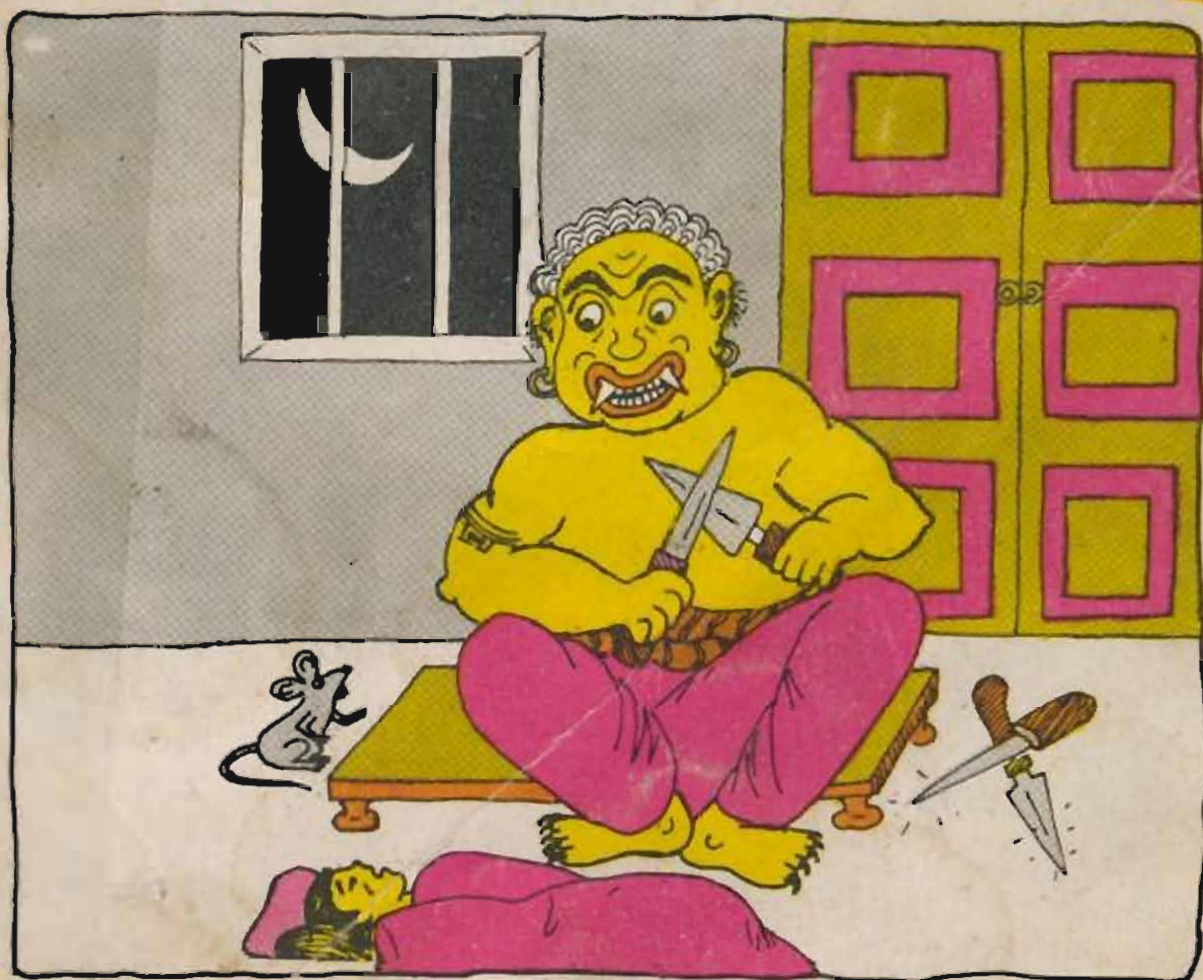


Tales from Nepal

Sipra Roy Choudhury



**Sangam English Supplementary Readers
Grade 2**

Tales from Nepal

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1. Catching a Thief

An old woman was crying. A thief had stolen her hen. The hen had laid eggs every day. The old woman had sold these eggs and earned a little money. What would she do now?

The eggs heard her crying and asked her, 'Why are you crying? What has happened?'

'A thief has stolen your mother. I'm so old. How can I catch him?' said the old woman.

The eggs said, 'Don't cry. We'll catch the thief for you.'

They set off to find the thief. On the way, they met a needle.

'Where are you going in such a hurry?' asked the needle.

'A thief stole our mother last night,' said the eggs. 'We are going to catch the thief.'

'May I come along and help you catch the thief?' asked the needle.

'Yes, of course!' said the eggs.

So the eggs and the needle went on together. A little later, they met a pumpkin.

'Where are all of you going in such a hurry?' asked the pumpkin.

'A thief stole our mother last night,' said the eggs. 'We are going to catch the thief, and the needle is going to help us.'



'May I come along too and help you catch the thief?' asked the pumpkin.

'Yes, of course!' said the eggs.

So the eggs, the needle, and the pumpkin went on together. A little later, they met a pea.

'Where are all of you going in such a hurry?' asked the pea.

'A thief stole our mother last night,' said the eggs. 'We are going to catch the thief. The needle and the pumpkin are going to help us.'

'May I come along too and help you catch the thief?' asked the pea.

'Yes, of course! Come along,' said the eggs.

So the eggs, the needle, the pumpkin, and the pea went on together. Next they met a walking-stick.

It wanted to join them too and help them catch the thief. So the eggs, the needle, the pumpkin, the pea, and the walking-stick went on together.

After a long walk and a careful search, they found the thief's house. The thief was not at home.

'We must wait for the thief,' said the eggs to their friends. 'We'll hide in the kitchen stove. Where would you like to hide?'

'I'll lie on the thief's bed,' said the needle.

'I'll sit on the roof,' said the pumpkin.

'I'll wait on the staircase,' said the pea.

'I'll stand near the front door,' said the walking-stick.

Now this is what happened.

Late that night, the thief came home. It was cold outside and he was tired and hungry. He ate a good meal of chicken and rice. Then he lit a fire in the stove to warm himself. He blew on the fire to make it burn well.

Suddenly, the eggs inside the stove burst into little pieces. The pieces of eggshell flew out into the thief's eyes. He shouted in pain and ran upstairs. As he sat down on his bed, the needle pricked him hard.

'Ow!' shouted the thief and ran out of the room. On the stairs, he slipped on the pea and rolled all the way down to the floor. The thief's foot was hurt, but he got up and began limping to the door.

As he went out, the walking-stick smacked him hard on his bottom. The thief fell flat on his face. Just then the pumpkin rolled off the roof and fell on his head. That was the end of the thief.

And that was how the eggs, the needle, the pumpkin, the pea, and the walking-stick punished the thief for stealing the old woman's hen.

2. 'Kata lukayo?'

Listen to the Koklas pheasant calling out, 'Kata lukayo? Kata lukayo?' What has he hidden? What is he looking for?

Here is the story.

A long time ago, there lived a greedy man. All he wanted was more and more money. He lent his money to people and made them pay interest on it. If they could not repay his money, he took away all their belongings. In this way, he became very rich.

All the people in his village disliked him. The greedy man had no friends at all, but he did not care. He never helped anybody and no one ever asked him for help.

The miser had a lot of money, but he also had a problem. He did not know what to do with so much money! He did not want to spend it — he was miserly. He did not want to share it with others — he was too selfish. He did not want to help others with it — he was very mean. All the man could do was hide the money so that no one could steal it. But what was the best hiding place?

He thought hard about this. Then he decided to bury all his money in the jungle. He thought that would be the safest hiding place for it.



One dark night, he went to the jungle. There he buried his money and precious jewels in a deep hole. He felt very happy. Now no one else knew where his jewels were hidden.

Someone *did* know about it. Indra, the king of the gods, had seen him burying the treasure. He was very angry with the miser for his meanness and decided to punish him.

So Indra made the rain fall for many days. Soon there were floods and landslides. The rain washed away a part of the miser's treasure. The rest of it was hidden under thick mud. The treasure was lost forever.

After the rain stopped, the miser ran to the jungle. He wanted to make sure his treasure was safe. When he reached the jungle, he could not believe his eyes. Tall trees had fallen down and there was mud everywhere ! The miser could not find the place where he had buried the treasure.

He dug up the mud in one place but found nothing. He dug up the mud in another place, and then another, and another. He could not find his money and jewels anywhere. He ran unhappily from place to place crying, 'Kata lukayo? Kata lukayo?' (Where have I hidden it? Where have I hidden it?) Nobody came to help him. He never found the buried treasure, though he looked for it all his life.

After he died, he was born again as the Koklas pheasant. He still hops from place to place, looking for his treasure, and crying out, 'Kata lukayo? Kata lukayo?'

3. The Kind Neighbour and the Mean Neighbour

Two men lived next to each other in a village. One of them was rich, but the other was very poor. The poor man was kind, honest, and helpful, but the rich man was mean, dishonest, and selfish.

A sparrow built her nest under the roof of the poor man's house. She laid her eggs in the nest. After a few days, the eggs hatched and there were three little sparrows in the nest. One day, one of them fell out of the nest and broke its leg.

The kind man saw the hurt sparrow and picked it up. He bandaged its leg and looked after the sparrow till it became well again. The sparrow flew away, but it never forgot what the kind man had done.

Many months later, the sparrow came back. It gave the kind man a few seeds and asked him to plant them in his garden. The kind man did what the sparrow had asked. Soon he forgot all about the seeds in his garden. There was a surprise in store for him.

The seeds soon grew into tall plants. All the plants had precious jewels on their branches!

The kind man was astonished when he saw this. He wondered how this had happened.

Then he remembered the seeds he had planted. The sparrow had given him magic seeds as a reward for his kindness. Now he was rich. But he was still kind and helpful to everybody.

The mean man was curious to know how his poor neighbour had become rich so suddenly. He asked his neighbour about it. The kind man told him about the little sparrow.

This made the mean man very jealous. He said to himself, 'Why, I can take care of a sparrow, too. And it won't cost me any money!'

Soon he was lucky. A sparrow built a nest under the roof of his house and laid eggs in it. When little sparrows came out of the eggs, the mean man pushed one of them out of the nest. It fell down and broke its leg. The mean man bandaged the broken leg — and put the sparrow back into the nest! Then he waited greedily for his reward.

Sure enough, the sparrow came back and gave him a few seeds. At once the mean man planted the seeds. He thought of all the jewels he would get and felt very happy.

The seeds grew and soon became tall plants. Instead of jewels, a dark and frightening man appeared from the plants! He had a lot of papers under his arm.

‘This is a list of all the money you borrowed from other people and never returned,’ he told the mean man. ‘Return their money at once, or I will punish you!’

The mean man had to return all the money he had borrowed. In this way, he became very poor. But he was still as mean as ever. He now wanted to take away his neighbour’s money.

Soon he got his chance. The kind man had to go away for a month. He put his money in a bag and gave the bag to his mean neighbour. He asked the mean man to look after the money till he came back. As soon as he left, the mean man took out the money and filled the bag with sand.

A month later, the kind man came back to the village. He went to his neighbour’s house and asked him for the bag of money.

‘Here it is,’ said the mean man, giving him the bag.

‘There nothing in the bag but sand! Where is all my money?’ cried the kind man.

The mean man smiled slyly and said, ‘I don’t know anything about it. While you were away, the money must have turned into sand.’

Then the kind man understood what his neighbour had done. He was very angry, but he went away without saying a word. He decided to teach his mean neighbour a lesson.



Now, the mean man had to go away for some time. He had a small son whom he loved very much. He took his son to the kind man's house and asked him to look after the boy.

When the mean neighbour left, the kind man hid the little boy in his house. Then he caught a small monkey and taught it to say, 'Father, I'm your son.'

A few days later, the mean man came back to the village. He went to his neighbour's house and asked for his son.

The good man pointed to the monkey and said, 'There he is! Don't you know your own son?'

'Nonsense! That's a monkey!' shouted the mean man angrily. 'Where is my son?'

Just then the monkey said, 'Father, I'm your son.'

The good man said, 'See, he says he is your son! Soon after you left, he turned into a monkey. What can I do? It's just like my money that turned into sand.'

Then the mean man knew that he had been found out. He had to return his neighbour's money. He also promised that he would never cheat anyone again. The good man then gave his son back to him.

4. The Giants' Great-grandfather

Long ago, there lived a clever man who was very poor. He had no work to do and no money to spend. He was always hungry.

One day he decided to leave his village and go to the town. He thought he could find work and earn some money there. So he set off for the town.

He walked a long way that day. On the way, he saw a big house. The man wondered who lived in such a big house. He looked in through the window. There was a table inside with a lot of food on it. The hungry man thought he could ask for some food, so he knocked at the door.

No one came to open it. The man knocked again, but still the big door was not opened. After waiting for some time, the man pushed the door. It opened, and the man stepped into the house.

What a strange house it was! Everything in the house was very big — the tables and chairs, the pots and pans, even the books in the cupboard! The man looked everywhere, but there was no one in the house. He was too hungry to wait any longer. He sat down on one of the big chairs and ate as much as he wanted.

Just as he got up to go, there was a loud noise outside and the ground started shaking. The

man looked out of the window and saw four enormous men walking towards the house! They were giants. Then he knew that this was the giants' house and the giants were coming home.

The man was very frightened. He had to think of a plan to save himself from the giants. Then he had an idea. He bolted the front door and ran up the stairs. The giants would not be able to see him there.

When the giants found that the front door of their house would not open, they were very angry.

'Who's inside?' they roared.

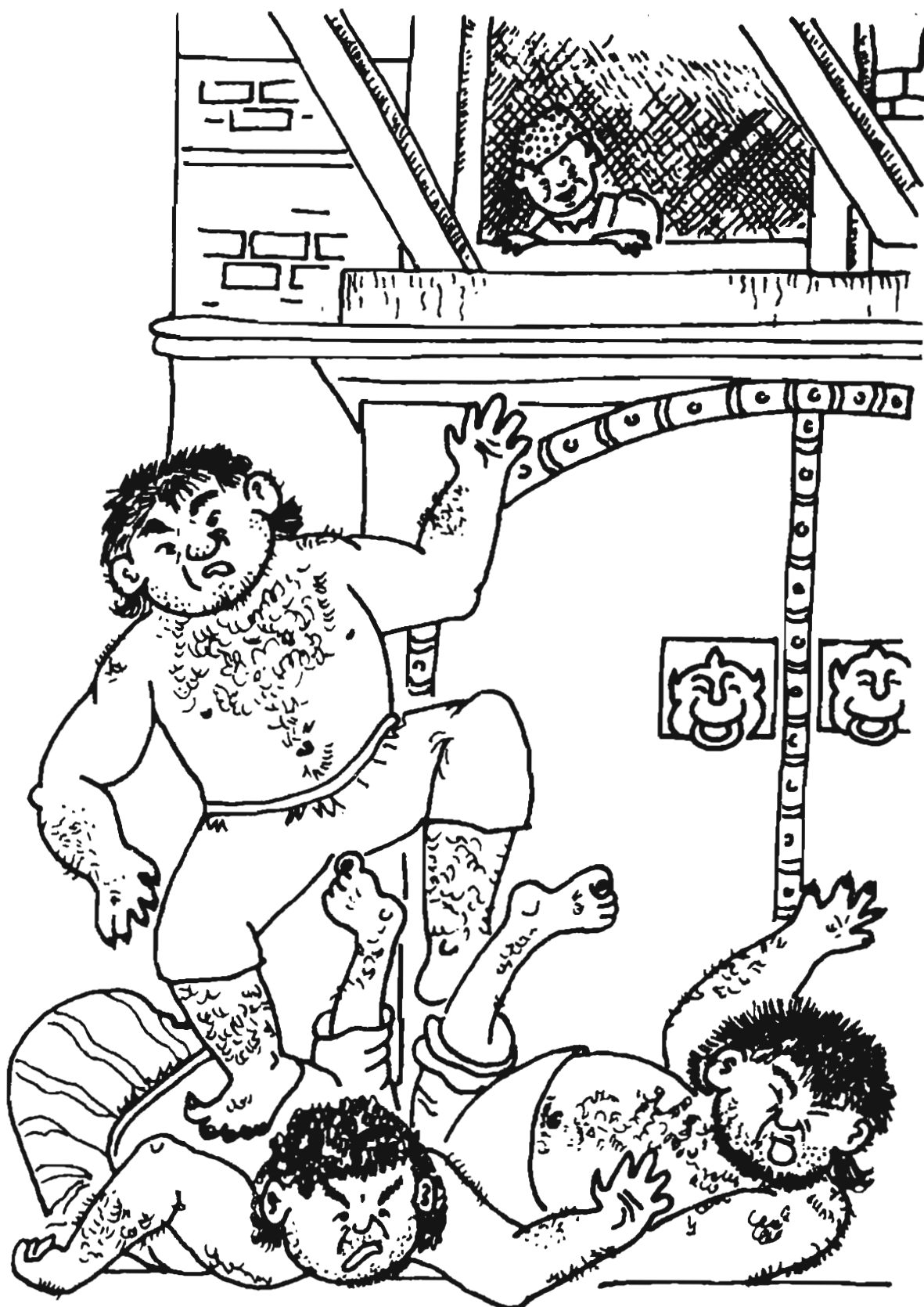
The man shouted out as loudly as he could, 'I'm your great-grandfather. I eat other giants and I'm going to eat you all up!'

The giants were very surprised to hear this. They did not know they had a great-grandfather. They felt very curious.

They called out, 'How big is your face, Great-grandfather?'

The man looked about and saw a winnowing fan. He threw it out and shouted, 'My face is this big!'

The giants were surprised. How big this great-grandfather was! They felt a little afraid, but they were still curious about him. They asked him, 'How long is your hair, Great-grandfather?'



This time the man found a long rope and threw it down. He yelled, 'My hair is this long!'

The giants were very scared by now, but they still wanted to know some more.

'How big is your toothpick?' shouted one of them.

The man had to look for something to show the giants. Then he found a long stick. He threw it out and shouted very loudly indeed, 'This is my toothpick. After I have eaten all of you, I'll use this to clean my teeth!'

The stick fell with a clatter and made the giants jump back in fright. Then one of them, who was very brave, shouted out, 'We want to see you spit, Great-grandfather!'

The clever man coughed and threw a bowl of curds out of the window. The bowl fell on the ground and curds splattered all over the place.

The giants were really very frightened, but before they ran away, they wanted to see this enormous great-grandfather. They started climbing one on top of the other, so that the giant on top could peep into the room upstairs.

The man looked out just then and saw what they were doing. He knew that if the giants saw him, they would break down the door and eat him up.

So he started talking, as if to himself, 'Now which of the giants shall I eat first? I think I'll start with the plump one at the bottom.'

These words frightened the fat giant so much that he started trembling. He shook so much that all the giants on top tumbled down and fell in a big heap ! By now the giants were scared out of their wits. They all got up and ran away without looking back even once.

The clever man laughed and laughed till tears ran down his cheeks. Then he took all the things the giants had left behind and lived very happily till the end of his days.

5. The Sparrow and the Lost Pea

An old sparrow had got very little to eat for many days. One day, she found a plump green pea lying on the ground. She was overjoyed. At last she could have a good meal.

The sparrow wanted to have a bath before she ate. Who would look after the pea while she was bathing? If she left it on the ground, ants or another bird might take it away. The sparrow took the pea to a carpenter who was working nearby.

‘Please look after this pea for me,’ she said to him politely. ‘I’ll be back soon.’

Then off she went for a dip in the river. She came back soon, eager for her meal. But...the pea was not there!

‘Where is my pea?’ she asked the carpenter.

‘What pea?’ he said, as he hammered in a nail.

‘Why, the pea that I left here a little while ago! I asked you to look after it,’ said the sparrow.

‘Do you think I have nothing else to do? Did you pay me to look after your pea?’ shouted the man very rudely. ‘The king is coming this way today. I must repair this bridge before he comes. Go away and don’t disturb me!’

The sparrow flew away feeling very unhappy. Then she saw a policeman walking down the



road. The sparrow stopped him and told him about the lost pea.

‘Please help me, kind sir,’ she said to him.

‘Fly away, little bird,’ said the policeman. ‘I must get everything ready for the king’s visit. If I look for your pea, then my work will not be done and the king will be angry. Will you be able to help me then?’ Saying this, he walked away to the bridge.

Just then, a man came riding on a horse. It was the king’s minister himself. The little bird was sure that the minister would help her. She sat on his shoulder and told him about the lost pea.

‘I know you will help me,’ she said to him.

The minister did not reply. He just waved her away and galloped off to the bridge. Since no one would help her, the sparrow decided to ask the king for help.

Soon the king came riding on a big elephant, followed by his soldiers. The bird told him her sad story but the king, like the others, waved her away. ‘Go away, little sparrow,’ he said. ‘I’m busy now.’

The poor sparrow was very hungry. She was very angry, too. Then she saw a big black ant on the road and she had an idea.

She told the ant, ‘Make the king listen to me or I’ll eat you up!’

The ant was afraid. He crawled up the elephant's leg and said in his ear, 'Make the king listen to the sparrow or I'll bite you hard.'

The elephant was frightened. He told the king, 'Please listen to the bird, Your Majesty, or the ant will bite me. If he does, then I'll shake my body and you will fall off.'

The king was afraid and he had to listen carefully to the sparrow's story. Then he called his minister and told him, 'Help the sparrow or you'll be punished!'

The minister told the policeman, 'Look for the pea or you'll lose your job!'

The policeman then told the carpenter, 'Find the pea at once or you'll lose your head!'

Then all of them looked for the pea. Soon they found it hidden under some grass. The sparrow had her meal at last. She had also learnt a lesson on how to get a job done.

6. The Clever Wife

A lazy and stupid farmer had a very clever wife. The man did no work. He ate and slept while his wife did all the work in the house and the fields. One day, the wife lost her temper.

She told her husband, 'I won't feed a lazy man like you any longer ! Find some work to do and bring home some money.' Saying this, she gave the man one hundred rupees and ordered him out of the house.

The man set off to look for some work to do. He walked for many miles, asking people for work. But no one wanted to help him because they knew he was lazy.

That evening, he reached a small village. He was tired and dusty — and how hungry he was! He wanted food and shelter, so he knocked at the door of a house.

A man with one leg opened the door. He smiled at the farmer and said, 'So you have come at last! Last year, I gave your father my leg for repair. Have you brought it back?'

The stupid man was speechless to hear this. He could not think of any answer to this question.

'What, no leg?' shouted the one-legged man. 'Your father has cheated me! You must pay for

it!' And he went on shouting at the top of his voice.

So the stupid man paid him fifty rupees to keep him quiet. He promised to go back home, find the leg, and give it back to the one-legged man. Then he ran away as fast as he could.

He had still not found a place to sleep. So he knocked at the door of another house. This time the man who opened it had only one eye.

He glared at the stupid man and shouted, 'So you are back! Have you got my eye with you? Why not? Your father had promised to repair it and send it back. Your father is a cheat! Now you must pay me for my eye.' And he went on shouting at the stupid man, who did not know what to say.

The stupid man was so scared that he gave the one-eyed man the rest of his money and ran away. He was very tired by now. He knocked at another door. An old woman opened it. She smiled and said kindly, 'You look tired. Do you want to stay here? Come in. I can give you food and shelter.' The man was very happy to hear this and accepted her offer.

That night, when he was eating, she showed him a hen in a basket. 'This hen crows like a cock,' she told him.

'That's impossible!' said the man, laughing.

‘Let’s take a bet on it,’ said the old woman. ‘If the hen crows tomorrow morning, you’ll be my slave for the rest of your life. If it doesn’t, you can take everything I own.’

The poor fool did not guess that this was a trick. He agreed to take the bet. He went to sleep happily, thinking that he would soon be a rich man. But the next morning, he heard a cock crowing inside the basket!

The old woman went to the basket and opened it. Sure enough, the same hen was sitting inside. So the man became a slave of the old woman — and how hard she made him work!

When the man did not return home for many months, his wife decided to look for him. She set off and walked along, asking people who passed if they had seen her husband. That evening, she reached the small village.

She went to the house where the man with one leg lived and asked him if he had seen her husband. The man said, ‘Have you brought my leg back? Your husband was here a few months ago. He promised to send my leg to me.’

The clever woman knew at once that he was trying to trick her. She took out a long, sharp knife and said, ‘There are many kinds of legs at home — fat and thin, long and short, straight and crooked. We don’t know which is yours. So I



have come to take your second leg. We will match it with the first and then give both of them back to you!’

When the cheat heard this, he was very frightened. He begged the woman not to take his leg. He gave back the fifty rupees that he had taken from the stupid man and quickly shut the door.

The woman went on and asked other people if they had seen her husband. When she asked the man with one eye, he said, ‘So you are here at last! Have you brought my eye? Your husband promised to send it back a long time ago.’

The clever woman took out the knife again and said, ‘There are many kinds of eyes at home — big and small, black and brown, round and slanted. We don’t know which is yours. So I have come to take your second eye. We’ll match it with the first and then give both of them back to you.’

The one-eyed cheat was so scared that he fell on his knees and begged the woman to forgive him! He also gave back the fifty rupees he had taken from the stupid man. Then he ran away as fast as he could.

The clever woman went on. Soon she was near the old woman’s house. There she saw her husband working in the fields like a slave. She was

astonished. She went to the old woman's house and knocked on the door.

Just as she had done before, the old woman spoke kindly to the clever woman. She gave her a good meal and a bed to sleep in. But before they slept, the old woman showed her the hen in the basket.

'This hen crows like a cock,' she said.

The clever woman laughed but did not say anything. The old woman asked her to take the same bet. The clever woman agreed to be the old woman's slave if the hen crowed the next day, or to take all the old woman owned if it did not.

The clever woman slept near the basket that night. She was sure that the old woman was trying to trick her. Now, it so happened that she understood animal talk. That night she heard the hen say, 'How long do I have to sit on top here and you, down there?'

The clever woman got up quietly and opened the basket. 'Aha!' she said to herself. 'So this is how the old woman is going to trick me.' There in the basket was a hen. But under her, hidden in a pile of hay, was a cock ! The clever woman put the cock on top and the hen under the hay, and went back to sleep.

The next morning, as soon as the cock crowed, the old woman woke up the clever woman. Then

she opened the basket. A cock flew out and ran away, flapping its wings! The old woman's trick had failed and she lost the bet. She had to set free the stupid farmer and all the other men who were her slaves. She also had to give the clever woman all she owned.

The clever woman went home with her husband. He had learnt his lesson. He now worked very hard indeed. So he and his clever wife lived very happily till the end of their days.

7. In Search of a Bride

Long ago, there lived an old woman who had four sons. The first three sons were handsome young men — but the youngest son was a rat. All the brothers were married, except the rat. He was clever and brave, but no one wanted to marry a rat. So the old woman was very unhappy.

One day the four brothers set off to look for a bride for the rat. They travelled far and wide, but they could not find a bride for their brother. Then, one day, the brothers met a hermit in a forest. The hermit gave them food and drink. Later he asked them what they were doing there, so far away from home.

The brothers told him about their search for a bride. The hermit said, 'Not far from here lives a wicked demon. He has a beautiful daughter. No one wants to marry her because everyone is afraid of her father. You are all so strong and brave. Why don't you go to him? Perhaps he will let his daughter marry your brother. But at night, beware of him. He eats men !'

The brothers thanked him and set off once more. After a few days, they reached the demon's house. It was midnight. The brothers knocked at the door. The demon himself opened it. He was

very frightening to look at, with red eyes and long, sharp teeth. He smiled at the brothers.

‘Come in,’ he said kindly. ‘You look tired. Why don’t you stay here tonight? I will give you good food to eat and warm beds to sleep in.’

Hearing this, the first three brothers felt very happy. They forgot the hermit’s warning. They ate a big meal and soon fell asleep. Only the rat remembered the hermit’s words and hid in a hole.

Now, just as the hermit had said, the demon wanted to eat the brothers. So when everyone was asleep, he got up and started sharpening his knives. The rat watched him from the hole. He understood what the demon wanted to do. After some time, he came out and stood near the demon.

‘What do you want, my dear?’ asked the demon kindly, when he saw the rat.

‘I’m still a little hungry. Please give me some sweets to eat,’ said the clever rat.

The demon was in a hurry, but he had to make some sweets to get rid of the rat. The rat ate the sweets and then pretended to fall asleep.

After a while, the demon started sharpening his knives again. Again the rat got up and stood near him.



'Now what do you want?' asked the demon, quite annoyed.

'I still can't sleep. Please make me some bread to eat,' said the rat, smiling at the demon.

The demon was very angry but he quickly made some bread for the rat. The rat ate it and then pretended to fall asleep. But as soon as the demon picked up the knives again, out came the rat, too!

'What do you want this time?' growled the demon crossly.

'I'm very unhappy. No one wants to marry me. I can't sleep thinking about it,' said the rat, pretending to cry.

'All right! I'll let you marry my daughter if you promise to go to sleep afterwards,' said the demon. He was in a hurry to eat the brothers, for it was almost dawn.

'Will you ring bells too, the way my mother does?' asked the rat.

'Yes, yes, I will,' said the demon, quite forgetting the noise that bells would make.

So the demon had to let his beautiful daughter marry the rat. He had to ring bells too! The noise woke the rat's brothers. They were very happy to find their brother getting married. The demon had to go on with the ceremony and soon it was daybreak. The demon could not kill the brothers

in the daytime. He had to wait till it was night again.

That day, when the demon was away, the rat told his brothers, 'Let's run away now or the demon will eat you up tonight!' He told them how he had tricked the demon the night before. The brothers lost no time. They ran away as fast as they could, taking the rat's beautiful bride with them.

The old woman was very happy to see that her sons were safe. But she was even happier that her cleverest son, the rat, had found a beautiful and good wife.

NOTES AND EXERCISES

CATCHING A THIEF

careful : to do something properly, with care

earned : got money for work done

limping : walking with one foot moving less well than the other

pricked : poked and hurt the skin with something sharp

search : an act of looking for someone or something

set off : started on a journey

slipped : slid on something (here, a pea) and fell down

smacked : hit

stove : a container in which a fire can be lit

Learning Words

1. Find a word or a phrase in the story which means:

- a. got money in return for work
- b. started a journey
- c. weeping or shedding tears
- d. made a hole in the skin
- e. hit something hard
- f. a way of walking when one foot is hurt

2. Find the odd man out:

- a. pumpkin mango apple needle banana
- b. red hen blue yellow green
- c. roof door eggs stairs floor

Understanding the Story

Answer these questions:

- a. What did the old woman do when the hen was stolen?
- b. Who offered to catch the hen for her?
- c. Who joined the eggs to help them catch the thief?
- d. Where did the pumpkin and the pea hide?
- e. How did the thief's eyes get hurt?
- f. What happened when the thief sat on his bed?
- g. How did he hurt his leg?
- h. What did the pumpkin do in the end?

Language Work

1. Read this sentence:

We will catch the thief for you.

It can also be written like this:

We'll catch the thief for you.

Rewrite these sentences using 'll in place of will.

- a. We will help you catch the thief.
- b. She will make some tea for us.
- c. He will read out the news.
- d. I will go to the market.
- e. You will play football in the evening.

2. Add a or an:

an egg _____ pea _____ ostrich

_____ pumpkin	_____ apple	_____ thief
_____ old woman	_____ hen	_____ box
_____ needle	_____ dwarf	_____ fox

‘KATA LUKAYO?’

bury : to hide something under the ground

floods : water covering the land

forever : for always

greedy : wanting more and more

hops : jumps with both feet together

interest : the extra money that a borrower has to pay
when he gives back money he has borrowed.

Koklas pheasant : A bird found in western Nepal. It
is the size of a farmyard cock. The feathers of the
male bird are black, grey and red in colour and its
call sounds like this: Kok-kok-kok-las!

landslides : a lot of mud and rocks falling from a
mountain

mean : unkind, selfish or cruel

miser : A miser or a miserly person is someone who
hates spending money.

precious : worth a lot of money

selfish : only thinking of yourself and not other
people

treasure : a collection of gold, silver, jewels, and so on

washed away : taken away by water

Learning Words

1. Find the word in the story which means:
 - a. things that are owned by someone
 - b. gold, jewels, and other precious things
 - c. a tool used for digging
 - d. to put something under the ground
 - e. precious stones
 - f. jumps on both feet

2. Match the words with their opposites:

selfish	spendthrift
miser	generous
mean	worthless
darkness	unhappy
precious	selfless
happy	light

Understanding the Story

1. Arrange the following sentences in order according to the story.
 - a. He made the rain fall.
 - b. He buried his money in the jungle.
 - c. A miserly moneylender once became very rich.
 - d. The bird still looks for the buried treasure.
 - e. The man never found his money.
 - f. The rain washed away the treasure.

- g. He became a bird.
- h. Indra wanted to punish him for his meanness.

2. Say which statement is true and which is false.

- a. The man was rich, but he was also very mean.
- b. Everybody knew that he had buried his money in the jungle.
- c. Indra did not know what the miser had done.
- d. Indra made the rain fall.
- e. The man found a part of his money.
- f. The miser became the Koklas pheasant and still looks for the treasure.

Language Work

Use the adjectives in the box below to fill in the blanks in these sentences.

happy greedy angry selfish mean

- a. Indra was _____ with the miser.
- b. The miser did not want to help others because he was very _____.
- c. The miser was too _____ to share his money with others.
- d. The miser was _____ that no one knew where his treasure was.
- e. The _____ miser wanted more and more money.

THE KIND NEIGHBOUR AND THE MEAN NEIGHBOUR

astonished : very surprised

curious : wanting to know something

found out : discovered

hatched : came out of an egg by breaking the shell

honest : truthful

jealous : being unhappy because you want what
someone else has

neighbour : a person who lives next door or nearby

to plant : to put (seeds) in the ground to grow

promised : gave his word that he would do some-
thing

reward : a gift given for good work

slyly : in a mean or dishonest way

turned into : changed and became (something else)

Learning Words

Find the word in the story which means:

- a. untruthful
- b. tied a cloth around a broken leg
- c. put seeds in the ground to grow
- d. eager to know
- e. selfish or cruel
- f. someone who lives nearby

Understanding the Story

1. Answer these questions:

- a. What did the sparrow give the poor man ?

- b. What happened to the greedy neighbour's plants?
- c. What did the the mean man do with his neighbour's jewels ?
- d. Who did the mean man leave in the kind man's house ?
- e. How did the kind man trick the mean man ?
- f. How did the mean man get his son back ?
- g. Which sentence tells you that the mean man changed in the end? Write it down.

2. Complete these sentences by picking out the right answer from the choices given.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| a. The sparrow built its nest | on a tree.
under the roof.
outside the house. |
| b. The sparrow never forgot | the man's kindness.
the man's house.
its broken leg. |
| c. The mean man was jealous because | he wanted jewels too.
he was very poor.
wanted the sparrow. |
| d. The dark frightening man wanted | papers from the mean man.
to return the man's money.
money from the mean man. |

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| e. After the mean man | hid his son. |
| left, the kind man | took his jewels. |
| | caught a monkey. |

Language Work

Choose the correct word from the box and fill in the blanks.

under	of	into	to	in
-------	----	------	----	----

- The kind man said that the mean man's son had turned _____ a monkey.
- The mean man went _____ his kind neighbour's house.
- A sparrow built her nest _____ the mean man's roof.
- The kind man put the sparrow back _____ the nest.
- The mean man took the jewels out _____ his neighbour's bag.

THE GIANTS' GREAT-GRANDFATHER

clatter : a loud noise

enormous : very big

giant : an imaginary man who is very big and strong

great-grandfather : the father of a grandfather or a grandmother

heap : a number of things on top of one another.

peep : take a quick, secret look

plump : fat

roared : spoke in a deep, angry voice, sounding like a lion

scared out of their wits : too frightened to think

splattered : fell all around in little drops

trembling : shaking

tumbled : fell suddenly with a rolling movement

winnowing fan : a flat bamboo basket used for cleaning rice and other grain

yelled : shouted very loudly

Learning Words

1. Match the words with their meanings:

enormous

rolled and fell

yelled

fat

plump

a loud noise

peep

take a quick look

tumbled

very big

clatter

said very loudly

2. *Roar* and *clatter* are 'noise words' from the story. Here are some more 'noise words'. Say what makes these noises:

rumble

whistle

patter

clap

bang

hiss

bark

quack

cackle

Understanding the Story**1. Answer these questions:**

- a. How did the man find out that the house belonged to giants ?
- b. Why were the giants angry and surprised when they reached the house?
- c. What did the clever man tell the giants first ?
- d. Why were the giants afraid when they saw the winnowing fan ?
- e. Why did the man throw down the rope ?
- f. Why did the giants climb on top of one another?
- g. What scared the giants out of their wits ?
- h. What did the man do in the end ?

2. Say which statement is true and which is false.

- a. The man's face was as big as a winnowing fan.
- b. He threw a bowl of curds down as his spit.
- c. The giants were curious to see their great-grandfather.
- d. The man wanted to eat the giant who was right on top.
- e. The man saw the giants and ran away.
- f. The giants saw the man and ran away.
- g. The man took all the things in the giants' house.

Language Work**1. The words as ... as compare two different things**

The giants thought that the man's face was as big as a winnowing fan.

Choose the right word from the box to fill each blank in the sentences below.

long	brave	clever	tall	loud
------	-------	--------	------	------

- a. The man was as _____ as a fox.
b. The giant was as _____ as a house.
c. The man told the giants that his hair was as _____ as a rope.
d. The giant's voice was as _____ as thunder.
e. The man was as _____ as a lion.

THE SPARROW AND THE LOST PEA

carpenter : someone who makes things out of wood

crawled : moved slowly, pulling the body along

galloped : rode very fast on a horse

lose your job : not have work to do

lose your head : head will be cut off

minister : a person who has an important job in the government

policeman : someone who makes sure that people obey the law

politely : in a kind and respectful way

overjoyed : very happy

repair : mend

rudely : in an unkind way

soldier : a person in the army

Learning Words

1. Match the words with their meanings:

politely	put right
dip	delighted
overjoyed	rode quickly on a horse
repair	in a well-mannered way
galloped	moved slowly
crawled	a quick swim

2. Find the word in the story for a person who:

- a. makes or mends things made of wood.
- b. rules a country.
- c. makes people obey the law.
- d. is an important person in the government.
- e. fights for the country.

Understanding the Story

Answer these questions:

- a. What did the sparrow want to do before she ate the pea ?
- b. Why did the sparrow leave the pea with the carpenter ?
- c. Who was the second person that the sparrow asked for help ?
- d. Write down the sentence that tells you that the minister was in a hurry.
- e. What did the sparrow tell the ant?
- f. Why was the king afraid ?

- g. Who looked for the pea ?
- h. What did the sparrow learn in the end ?

Language Work

1. Match the parts in columns A and B and make complete sentences.

A	B
a. Find the pea	or you'll be tired tomorrow.
b. Go to bed early	or you'll be late for school.
c. Push hard	or you'll lose your job.
d. Take the first bus	or you may get hurt.
e. Look before you leap	or the door will not open.

2. Write out these jumbled sentences correctly and put in the capital letters and the full stops. The first is done for you.

- a. listen to....the king....the sparrow's story....had to
The king had to listen to the sparrow's story.
- b. the ground....one morning....a plump,green pea....lying on....she found
- c. for a dip....then off....in the river....she went
- d. waved her away....he just....to the bridge....and galloped off
- e. she had also....a job done....on how to get....learnt a lesson.

THE CLEVER WIFE

begged : to ask very humbly for something

cheat : to cheat someone is to fool or trick someone,
and a cheat is someone who fools or cheats other
people

failed : did not succeed

flapping : waving up and down

glared : stared in an angry way

hay : grass which has been cut and dried

impossible : cannot happen

lost her temper : felt very angry

ordered : said that something must be done

pile : a heap

return : go (or give) back

shelter : a place to stay where you are safe from any
danger

slave : a person who is not free, but belongs to some-
one and has to work for him

speechless : not able to speak, silent

the rest of : what is left behind

trick : something which is done to fool someone

Learning Words

1. Find the word in the story which means:

- a. to be silent
- b. a safe place to stay in
- c. gave his word
- d. asked in a very humble way
- e. not wanting to work
- f. looked angrily (at someone)

2. In each sentence, fill in the blank with the opposite of the underlined word.
- a. The wife was hard-working, but her husband was lazy.
 - b. She was clever, but her husband was _____.
 - c. This stick is straight, but that one is _____.
 - d. The man was thin, but he soon became very _____.
 - e. The one-legged man was unkind, but the old woman was _____.
 - f. Her voice is loud, but his voice is _____.

Understanding the Story

1. Answer these questions:
- a. Why did the wife order the man out of the house?
 - b. Why did the one-legged man start shouting ?
 - c. What did the stupid man give the one-eyed man to keep him quiet?
 - d. What was the bet that the old woman suggested?
 - e. What happened to the stupid man when he lost the bet?
 - f. Why did the first two cheats give the money back to the clever woman ?
 - g. How did the old woman lose the bet ?

Language Work

1. Make adverbs from the words in brackets by adding -ly, and use them to fill in the blanks.
- a. When she heard the cock crowing, the old woman quickly opened the basket. (quick)

- b. The man _____ gave the one-eyed man the rest of his money.(foolish)
- c. The one-eyed man spoke _____ to the clever woman.(cheerful)
- d. The clever woman got up _____ and opened the basket.(quiet)
- e. The old woman _____ offered the man food and shelter.(kind)

2. Read these sentences. The first is a statement and the second is an exclamation.

The man was hungry.

How hungry the man was!

Turn these statements into exclamations:

- a. The man was lazy.
- b. The wife was clever.
- c. The old woman was kind.
- d. The cheat was frightened.
- e. The knife was sharp.

IN SEARCH OF A BRIDE

annoyed : made angry by someone

beware : be careful

ceremony : a number of things done at a special happening, like a wedding

daybreak : the start of a day, dawn

demon : a harmful spirit

get rid of : get free of

growled : said in a low, angry voice
 handsome : good to look at
 hermit : someone who lives all alone, away from
 other people and leads a very simple life
 midnight : 12 o'clock at night
 pretended : put on an act to fool someone
 warning : something that tells people about danger
 wicked : cruel and mean

Learning Words

1. Find a word in the story which means:
 - a. a person who lives alone and leads a simple life.
 - b. the middle of the night
 - c. a wicked spirit
 - d. dawn
 - e. a woman who is going to be married
2. Choose the right word from within the brackets and fill in the blanks.
 - a. The demon tried to _____ of the rat,
but failed.(kill/get rid)
 - b. The brothers _____ to find a bride
for the rat. (set off/travel)
 - c. Everyone was _____ of the demon.
(scared/annoyed)
 - d. The demon _____ made some bread
for the rat.(happily/quickly)
 - e. The clever rat _____ the demon and
married his daughter. (tricked/ troubled)

Understanding the Story**1. Answer these questions:**

- a. Why was the old woman unhappy?
- b. Who did the hermit say would be a good bride for the rat?
- c. Why did no one want to marry the demon's daughter?
- d. Why do you think the demon was kind to the brothers?
- e. Why did the rat hide in a hole?
- f. What did the rat ask the demon the first time ?
- g. What happened when the demon rang the bells?
- h. Who was the cleverest? Why?

Language Work**1. Read the sentence below and study the underlined words.**

The demon had to make some sweets for the rat.

- a. Write down the sentences in the story which use the words 'had to'.
- b. Make four sentences using 'have to', about things you do in school. Start: I have to
- c. Make four sentences using 'has to' about what your mother does at home everyday. Start: My mother has to

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